Salt washed away by the Cyclone.

70. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the salt belonging to Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar washed away by the recent cyclone was on the ridges for nine months instead of being removed to the platform ;

(*b*) whether the salt was allowed to remain there in spite of the licensee's frequent applications to the Government for the removal thereof, and

(*c*) whether the Excise Commissioner condemned that salt as unfit for human consumption ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) It is reported that no salt was lying on the ridges.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*) this question does not arise.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative

Sale Price of Mr. Karayalar's Salt.

71. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is any arrangement which prevents wholesale purchasers who may come to any special understanding with Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar from selling salt at higher rates than those stipulated in the agreement with Mr. Karayalar ; and

(*b*) whether similar arrangements have or have not proved to be disastrous both to the Government and the consumers in the case of monopoly sales, in respect of Bombay and Tuticorin salt at Quilon and Trivandrum ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) No such arrangement is necessary, for it would be futile for Mr. Karayalar to come to any special understanding with any wholesale purchasers to put up prices, since Mr. Karayalar is bound to sell salt in any quantity at the stipulated rate to any person who is prepared to pay for it and cannot confine his sales to any particular set of wholesale purchasers. He cannot put up prices without combining with the whole body of purchasers, which is impracticable, seeing that there is no limit to them.

(*b*) Government are not aware of any similar arrangements having been made in former years at Quilon and Trivandrum.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Was not Mr. Motha given the contract for importing and selling salt in Quilon and Trivandrum a few years ago ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Why was that system stopped ?

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